



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,097	06/25/2003	Masaki Okamoto	FP02-394US	5408
1218	7590	04/21/2004	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/607,097	OKAMOTO, MASAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edwin A. León	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspond nce address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0503, 1003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,371,808). With regard to Claims 1 and 7, Sakaguchi discloses an insert-molded connector (1) formed by insert-molding a housing (12) at least partly covering a core (10) holding at least one terminal fitting (4) as a core assembly, the core (10) comprises a holdable portion (22, 23) to be held by a molding die (26) at a position at least partly exposed from the housing (12). The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above. See Figs. 1-12.

With regard to Claim 2, Sakaguchi discloses the housing (12) comprising a connector fitting portion (17) engageable with a mating connector (connector mating with female part 10), and the holdable portion (22, 23) is located in a sealed area of the

Art Unit: 2833

connector fitting portion (17) defined between the connector fitting portion (17) and the mating connector (connector mating with female part 10). See Figs. 1-12.

With regard to Claim 4, Sakaguchi discloses the molding die (26) comprising a holding portion (27b) having a shape mating the holdable portion (22, 23) provided at the core (10) and engageable therewith. See Figs. 1-12.

With regard to Claim 5, Sakaguchi discloses the core (10) comprising at least two holding members (22, 23) for holding the terminal fitting (4). See Figs. 1-12.

With regard to Claim 6, Sakaguchi discloses the holding members (22, 23) comprise interlocking means (groove in which 22 is located in 23 and edges of 22) for interlocking the holding members (22, 23) to each other. See Figs. 1-12.

With regard to Claim 9, Sakaguchi discloses the molding die (26) comprising mount grooves (27c) for positioning the terminal fitting (4) during the molding. See Figs. 1-12.

With regard to Claim 10, Sakaguchi discloses the core (10) comprising at least two holding members (21, 14) and wherein the terminal fitting (4) is at least partly fitted at least into a terminal mounting groove (where 4 is located inside 14) of one holding member (14) and then another holding member (21) is fitted to the mounting surface back part of 14) of the holding member (14) for holding the terminal fitting (4) at least partly clamped between the holding members (21, 14). See Figs. 1-12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,371,808) in view of Fukatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,447,331). Sakaguchi discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the housing and the core being molded of synthetic resin materials having different colors.

Fukatsu et al. discloses a similar connector (50) having parts (51) molded having different colors. See Column 9, Lines 60-67.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of Sakaguchi by using different colors as taught in Fukatsu et al. in order to attach the parts of the connector in their respective proper posture. (Fukatsu et al., Column 10, Lines 3-7).

Conclusion

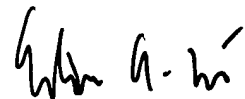
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ito (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,952), Wanatowicz (U.S. Patent No.

5,038,468), Abe (U.S. Patent No. 6,076,258) and Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,823,797) disclose inert-molded connectors having holdable portions, dies and core assemblies.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edwin A. León
AU 2833

EAL
April 16, 2004